

A black and white illustration depicting a large group of Eastern European immigrants on the deck of a ship. The immigrants, including men, women, and children, are dressed in traditional attire such as headscarves, long coats, and aprons. They are gathered on the ship's deck, looking out towards the Statue of Liberty in the distance. The ship's rigging and masts are visible on the left side of the image. The Statue of Liberty stands prominently on the right side of the horizon, with other ships visible in the background. The overall scene conveys a sense of hope and anticipation for a new life in the United States.

Eastern European Migration to the United States

In the twentieth century

Presentation developed for the Center for Slavic and East European Studies at The Ohio State University by Kathryn Metz

1900-1915

- Over 15 million immigrants came to the US in the first fifteen years of the 20th century
 - This number was equal to the number of people who came in the 40 years preceding the turn of the century
- Most of these new immigrants were coming from Southern and Eastern Europe and were seen as very alien to the European immigrants who arrived earlier
- In NYC, $\frac{3}{4}$ of every resident was either an immigrant or first generation American

Difficulties

- Most of these newcomers had difficulty adjusting to life in the US
- The US also struggled to absorb the immigrants into American culture and society
 - Most newcomers settled in cities where jobs were located
 - Cities were crowded and city services failed to keep up with the flow of newcomers
 - Immigrants often took jobs that native born Americans did not want

<https://www.loc.gov/item/00694368>

Jewish Immigration to the USA

- Between 1820 to 1924 an increasingly steady flow of Jews entered the USA
- They came because of economic hardship, persecution and political upheavals to find the “Golden Land” in America
- Between 1820-1870, most Jews came from Central Europe and settled in New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Cincinnati, Cleveland, and San Francisco
- Between 1881 and 1924, more Eastern European Jews came due to pogroms (massacres of ethnic groups) in Russia and Ukraine.

Quote on Jewish labor in the US

- “[They] toil from six in the morning until eleven at night. Fifty cents is not an unusual compensation for these murderous hours. Trousers at 84 cents per dozen, 8 cents for a round coat, and 10 cents for a frock coat, are labor prices that explain the sudden affluence of heartless merchant manufacturers, and the biting poverty of miserable artisans.”
- -1892

Triangle Shirtwaist Fire - 1911

